

REMARKS

Claim 32 is pending in the present application.

Claim 32 was objected to because of improper antecedent basis. Claim 32 has been appropriately amended.

Claim 32 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Grabbe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,836,791) in view of Lemke (U.S. Patent No. 4,601,527). It is respectfully submitted that claim 32 is allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The present invention as recited in claim 32 includes the features of an insulative plate having insulative sleeves which are integral with the plate. The insulative plate is disposed adjacent to the second face of a medial wall of a conductive housing.

None of the cited prior art, on the other hand, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests “an insulative plate adjacent said second face of said medial wall with a plurality of insulative sleeves which are integral with said insulative plate”, as defined by claim 32.

Grabbe et al. is directed to a coax connector assembly having dielectric members 48 (see, e.g., Figs. 4 and 5, and column 4, lines 26-28). The dielectric members 48, which the Examiner refers to as insulative sleeves, are molded onto terminals 18. The terminals 18 are positioned in passages 12. However, as acknowledged by the Examiner, “Grabbe does not show the connector having an insulative plate adjacent to the second face of the medial wall” (Office Action, page 2, section 3). Although Grabbe et al. describes dielectric members 48 which the Examiner equates with insulative sleeves, these dielectric members are molded onto the terminals 18 and have no association with, or relevance to, any insulative plate. Moreover, the dielectric members 48 of Grabbe et al. are positioned midway up the length of the terminals (see Fig. 4), so Grabbe et al. clearly intends for the dielectric members to be offset from any wall, surface, or plate that may exist or be introduced.

Lemke describes a shielded header having a dielectric housing with electrical pins mounted therein. Lemke shows a filter 70 in Figure 5 to provide additional protection against the escape of electromagnetic energy (column 3, lines 28-30). Pins 14 are soldered to the filter 70 (column 3, lines 30-31). Lemke fails to disclose or suggest any insulative sleeves. Lemke’s failure to disclose or suggest insulative sleeves does not cure the deficiencies of

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2628/C7307(4418C)
Application No.: 09/942,486
Office Action Dated: August 21, 2003

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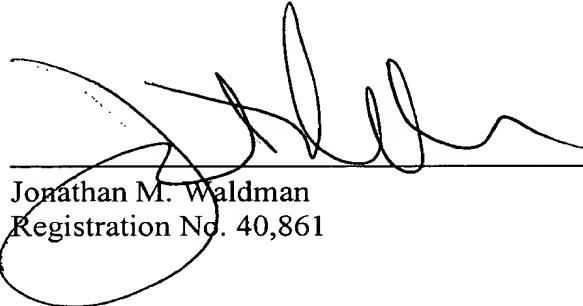
Grabbe et al. with respect to the features of an insulative plate with a plurality of insulative sleeves that are integral with the insulative plate.

In fact, if the dielectric members of Grabbe et al. were combined with the filter of Lemke, the dielectric members would be offset, and not anywhere near, and certainly not integral with, the filter. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Grabbe et al. and Lemke will not provide an insulative plate with a plurality of insulative sleeves that are integral with the insulative plate, as required by claim 32.

Based on the foregoing, claim 32 should not be rejected as being unpatentable over Grabbe et al. in view of Lemke, taken alone or in combination. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Date: October 30, 2003


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